



NEWS



Lauren Paver
President of Impact Austin

Letter from Our President

Greetings Impact Austin Members and Friends,

Impact Austin's member-powered engine is in high-gear this spring. Momentum from an inspiring Discovery Day program and the announcement of exceeding our membership goal with a total of 446 members has kept us all excited and laid a strong foundation for our high-impact grants. With more than 140 women participating in the Grant Review process, and a large percent being new members, I am looking forward to our Annual Meeting on June 4 where we will have the opportunity to hear from our grant finalists and vote on the investment of \$446,000 in our community!

Speaking of our community and the place we call home much has changed in the Greater Austin area since Impact Austin's inception fifteen years ago. This month, members of the Visioning and Strategic Planning Committee have been hard at work collecting stakeholder feedback on our community, the philanthropic sector, and perceptions of Impact Austin's successes, challenges, and opportunities. This feedback will shape our future as the Board of Directors joins the committee later this week for a robust conversation. Our goal is to dream big and bold, diving into our core ideology - who we are, why we exist, and what we aspire to be, in addition to defining success and creating a roadmap for delivering results. Our vision for the future will inform the experiences, competencies, and skills we will look for in our next leader. I look forward to sharing our progress with you in the coming weeks.

On the eve of painting Impact Austin's future and our commitment to our members and community, I'm inspired by Walter Anderson, an American painter, and poet who remarked, 'Believe in something big. Your life is worth a noble motive.' Here is to a big, bold and bright future for Impact Austin and our community, may it be full of possibility and excitement!

With gratitude,

Lauren Paver

Impact Austin Announces 2018 Grants Semi-Finalists

Eighteen Community Partners Selected to Apply for Four Grants Totaling \$446,000

Impact Austin recently announced the 18 community partners selected to apply for one of four grants to be awarded this year. Following a rigorous review process, the 18 nonprofits were chosen from 112 organizations participating in the preliminary round of application. Three program grants and one catalyst



grant -- each in the amount of \$111,500 -- will be awarded at the Annual Meeting on June 4, 2018. Program Grants will be awarded in the areas of Community, Education, and Health & Well-Being. The catalyst grant will support one nonprofit's plan to build its capacity and infrastructure. Learn more [HERE](#).

Selecting the best-qualified nonprofits marks the first milestone in the annual work of the Grant Review Committees (GRCs). The next step in the review process starts the week of April 2 when the GRCs reconvene to select the semifinalists in each grant category. Semifinalists will be notified April 6. Site visits will be conducted with each semifinalist the weekend of April 19-21. Finalists will be selected by the GRCs the week of April 30 and notified on May 4.

g3 Announces Finalists for its 2018 Grant

Impact Austin's youth initiative, Girls Giving Grants (g3), has chosen Austin Child Guidance Center and Foster Angels of Central Texas as finalists for this year's grant for a nonprofit directly benefitting youth. The g3 finalists were chosen from 45 applicants. Site visits with the finalist organizations will be conducted in early April, and the g3 grant of \$8200 will be awarded later that month.



Community Partners Reflect the Purpose and Power of Impact Austin

Past Years' Impact Austin Grants Kick-started Ongoing Community Work

Every year in January, dozens of Impact Austin members gather into teams to begin the rigorous process that ultimately leads to our grant awards in June. Year over year, community organizations present impactful, far-reaching programs that earn our investment.

Grant recipients, which we call our Community Partners, are the heart and soul of why we do what we do. In honor of Impact Austin's 15th Anniversary year, we take a look back at a few of our past grant recipients whose great works continue today.

Community Partner TreeFolks Rebuilds Forests with an Impact Austin Grant

Since inception, TreeFolks has engaged thousands of volunteers to plant more than 2.5 million trees in Central Texas. Planting trees is a powerful means of connecting people with their community, and their neighbors. Trees clean the air and water, provide habitat for wildlife, produce fresh fruit for neighbors, and shelter us from the hot Texas sun.

In 2016, Impact Austin awarded TreeFolks a \$94,000 grant to support the Blanco River Reforestation Project. TreeFolks proposed they would plant trees to restore the riparian forest on more than 1,000 residential properties in Hays County devastated by the 2015 floods. Many homeowners lost shelter and possessions and need assistance replanting their lands. Impact Austin funding



provided for landowner consultation and planting of 385,000 trees on 800 acres along the Blanco River, improving the ecosystem and providing healthy growth for future protection against flood damage.

Reforestation efforts continue today. Read more about TreeFolks [HERE](#).

Colorado River Alliance Teaches Water Stewardship with the Texas Colorado River Mobile Learning Experience

The Colorado River Alliance (CRA) supports natural science education and outdoor recreation programs that encourage the stewardship, awareness, and protection of the Colorado River, particularly to at-risk youth. The foundation also partners with other organizations to organize clean-ups of the lakes that make up the Colorado River.



The Texas Colorado River Rolling Exhibit, also known as the Mobile River, brings a water-science-center-on-wheels and classroom curriculum directly to 7th graders in the Texas Colorado River basin. Launched in 2015 in partnership with the Austin Independent School District (AISD) and Austin Water, the Mobile River offers interactive exhibits and games teaching students about water conservation, floodplains and ecoregions. Impact Austin's 2013 grant of \$101,000 went directly to support the Mobile River with the purchase of a gooseneck trailer; the trailer design; fabrication, installation and upkeep of exhibits; development of the educational curriculum; and purchase of supplies for student activities. In the eight months following its premier, 600 students visited the Mobile River classroom. Since then, the Mobile River has expanded its reach at community events and water-related sites, and more than 10,000 people visit the Mobile River each year.

For schools that can't afford field trips, the Mobile River program brings the river to the classroom through cutting-edge technology. Connecting kids to their water source teaches them about personal water usage, water preservation and creates the next generation of water stewards.

Experience the impact of our grant with this [VIDEO](#).

Partnerships for Children Provides for Abused and Neglected Children

Partnerships for Children provides critical resources to abused and neglected children in Central Texas who are in the care of Child Protective Services. Each day, 850 children in Central Texas wait for a family and a place to call home. On average, they will move seven different times before leaving foster care.

The Heart Gallery



In 2016, Impact Austin awarded a \$94,000 grant to support The Heart Gallery, a traveling portrait exhibit and outreach program to teach individuals about children in the foster care system and the adoption process. The Heart Gallery has a 60 percent success rate of

getting harder to place children into permanent, loving homes. Before the establishment of Heart Galleries across the U.S. that number was less than one percent.

In addition to an Annual Reveal of the gallery, the traveling Heart Gallery is creatively displayed in unlikely locations: IKEA, ARA Diagnostic Imaging, Texas State Capitol, Governor's Mansion, and the Bluebell Creamery in Brenham, TX. For more about the Heart Gallery, see [HERE](#).

Youth Empowerment & Success (YES) Mentor Program

In 2012, Impact Austin awarded \$103,600 to support the already successful Youth Empowerment & Success (YES) Mentor Program. The YES program identifies children 16 to 18 residing in group or foster care, and who would benefit most from a mentor and a financial literacy training program. Each participant receives a bank account with a stipend supported by a curriculum that includes banking, credit, saving, budgets, investing, and other topics as preparation to live as an adult.

A well-trained volunteer works individually to mentor a child until he turns 18 with the opportunity for the relationship to continue on its own, and they both meet once a month in small groups as well. The program strives to decrease negative life outcomes for these youth, such as homelessness, incarceration, unemployment, teen pregnancy, and poverty. For more on this program, see [HERE](#).



Marla Whelan Shares Perspective on the Grant Review Process

What is it like to work hands-on to decide where we invest our money? Marla Whelan should know. A long-time member of Impact Austin, Whelan has taken on various roles in the grant review process over the years and currently serves as grant coordinator. Learn more about Whelan and her experiences [HERE](#).



Impact Austin Gears Up for Special Days of Giving with Amplify Austin

Participating in Amplify Austin fundraising is a terrific way to enhance your support of Impact Austin. This year, our fundraising goal is aimed at encouraging higher-than-ever participation by community partners in our grantmaking program.



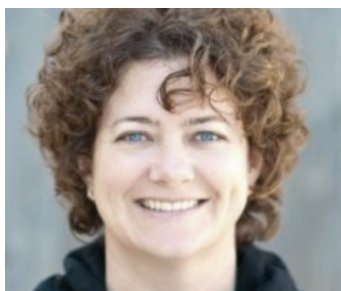
Amplify Austin 2018 begins at 6:00 PM March 1 and ends at 6:00 PM March 2. Over that 24 hour period, online donations are collected for a number of Austin area nonprofits - including Impact Austin. Donations generated through Amplify Austin 2018 will fund new grants administration software, plus training and professional consultation, resulting in a simpler process for nonprofit applicants and a more streamlined operation for volunteers. The first \$3000 raised for Impact Austin will be matched by our generous sponsors.

For more information on Amplify Austin and how to give, visit [HERE](#).

Discovery Day 2018 Delivers Insight, Information

and Inspiration

Keynote Speaker Mellie Price Makes the Business Case for Available Healthcare and Ignites Impact Austin's 2019 Membership Momentum



Some 115 current and prospective Impact Austin members were treated to a morning of fellowship and learning at this year's Discovery Day on a chilly Saturday, January 13. Keynote Mellie Price, Director of Commercialization at Dell Medical Center, presented the audience with thought-provoking statistics about the health care industry and the challenges faced by medical providers, while explaining the necessity of available healthcare in economic terms.

Attendees also heard from panelists discussing community needs and the future of philanthropy. Impact Austin's Becky Austen moderated a panel featuring Kerry Rupp, Delia Garza and Josh Nelson, who discussed community needs and concerns in Austin: general affordability; transportation; affordable child care; and high speed internet access for families. A second panel, moderated by James Werner, offered specific takeaways for emerging philanthropists: teaching children about philanthropy and making giving fun; how companies can incorporate philanthropy into their business model; the importance of finding professional advisors who also care about philanthropy. Amanda Brown Irving, Yvette Boatwright and Kimberly Theodore Sidey were featured panelists.

In a highlight of the day, membership chair Rebecca Powers and Phylis Donelson announced that our membership numbers had exceeded the goal for 2018 by totaling 445. In a memorable moment for Impact Austin, Price asked for a waiver from the deadline in order to join as the 446th member for 2018. Price also said 'count me in' for 2019, serendipitously launching the upcoming year's membership campaign as the first member to sign up.

Impact Austin Recruiting 'Coffees' Are Brewing

Momentum Continues Toward Membership Goal of 500 by December



Energized by the 148 new members who joined Impact Austin for 2018, we are moving quickly to reach more prospective members. The 'Coffee Team' already has two events scheduled: March 28 in zip code 78702 and April 11 in zip code 78731. If you have a friend (or two!) that you want to introduce to Impact Austin, please contact [Rebecca Powers](#) for details about time and location. We promise to present a compelling case for investing in our success!

First Year Member Celebration Slated for May 7

New members will have a chance to learn more about the Annual Meeting at a celebration designed to provide a snapshot of the big event, share 'secrets for success' for the voting process and more. This is a great way to prepare for the important annual event and meet new friends in the process. This celebration for first year members is slated for May 7, from 7 to 8:30 PM. New members will receive an Evite with details. Stay tuned!

Impact Austin in the News

The Austin American Statesman recently told the Impact Austin story in a feature profiling four of our members. The article underscored how strongly members' experiences with Impact Austin have informed and encouraged their follow-up on philanthropic work.



Enjoy reading the article [HERE](#).

Zones Plan Gathering for Spring

All Zones will be hosting events in March. Members of each Zone will receive Evites to events with more information prior to the scheduled event, including the address of the event and an opportunity to RSVP.

Events are being planned for April, May, and June. If you have questions about Zones or would like to host a Zone event in your home, please contact [Robin Krumme](#). If you would like to be included in additional Zones, please contact accounts@impactaustin.org.

UPCOMING ZONES EVENTS	
ZONE 1 & 2 Date: March 20, 2018 Location: Ella Parlor Bar (Inside Hotel Ella)	ZONE 3 & 4 Date: March 28, 2018 Location: Blue Dahlia
ZONE 5 Date: March 28, 2018 Location: Member's Home	ZONE 6 Date: March 7, 2018 Location: Member's Home
ZONE 8 & 9 Date: March 29, 2018 Location: Mesa Rosa	ZONE 10 Date: March 28, 2018 Location: Rooftop Lounge at the Sonesta Hotel

Annual Meeting is June 4, 2018

Details will follow in coming months for our biggest event of the year. For now, save this date to vote on 2018 Community Partners. If you'd also like to attend the public Grant Awards Ceremony at City Hall, add June 13 to your calendars.



We're Listening

We'd love to hear from you....what do you want to learn more about? What type of information is useful for you? Contact us at contact@impactaustin.org.

